**Increment for the period of strike**

†233. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the period of strike is not treated as bar in the increment;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Finance had issued an order to this effect to Regional Rural Banks on the 8th June, 2000; and

(c) if so, whether the increment bar has been removed for the period of strike observed by the employees of Himachal Pradesh Rural Bank, despite the said orders; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per extant guidelines there is no postponement of increment of an employee of Regional Rural Bank (RRB) for participating in a strike, only if it is legal, irrespective of the period of strike.

(c) The Punjab National Bank which is the sponsoring bank of Himachal Gramin Bank has reported that no increment bar has been removed as the strike observed by the Himachal Gramin Bank employees in 1990 was held to be illegal.

**Efficacy of Debt Recovery Tribunals**

234. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of non-performing assets of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) what has been the ratio and recovery of NPAs during 2000-2001 and what was the total amount recovered during this period; and

(c) whether Debt Recovery Tribunals have fulfilled the objectives for which they were set up and whether any comparative study has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.